Goal of “Your Delta, Your Voice” Survey – Fall 2020

Goal:
1) gather information from disadvantaged communities in the Delta region, including low income about how they work, live, recreate, and experience the Delta
2) understand how the community values and uses its natural, economic, and social resources.

Information was gathered to:
- inform the proposed Delta Conveyance project environmental review and planning process, particularly the environmental justice chapter of the CEQA Environmental Impact Report
- increase awareness of the proposed project
- increase Delta region disadvantaged community members interests in participating in public engagement activities.

Focus was on historically burdened, underrepresented, people of color, and low-income communities of interest, including indigenous and Tribal members.
Survey Questions

Welcome and Overview
- Purpose
- Some education

Priorities
- What’s important to you?
- Suggest your own priority

Special Places using Map
- Businesses
- Gathering spots
- Fishing
- Historic and cultural sites (some confidential)
- Other special places

Delta Community Needs
- What respondents like best and have concerns about in the Delta region
- Economic wellbeing and identifying social services
- Experience in nature
- Opinions on concerns and benefits of the Delta Conveyance Project

Demographics
- Zip code
- Ethnicity
- Language
- Income
- Email (anonymous)
## Survey Objectives and Outreach Approaches

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Approach</th>
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<tr>
<td>Increase overall visibility and survey participation</td>
<td>Inclusive</td>
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<td>Increase participation by disadvantaged community members who live or work in the Delta</td>
<td>Work with community organizations and networks (about 40 took action)</td>
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<td>Increase participation by limited English speakers</td>
<td>Survey and all materials, videos translated and publicized in Spanish and Chinese</td>
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<td>Increase accessibility for those who had limited access to internet and technology</td>
<td>Focus on smartphones, including older models</td>
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<td>Direct outreach including bag stuffing at Food Banks, School Meal Distribution, Post Offices, etc.</td>
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<td>Solid foundation for web-based action</td>
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<td>Tested outreach with Univision, Sacramento Cultural Hub, Radio Spots, Videos</td>
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<td>Direct outreach including Bag stuffing at Food Banks, School Meal Distribution, Post offices, etc.</td>
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<td>Chinese: Community leader texted and used WeChat</td>
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Who responded?

REPORTING SETS FOR ALL SURVEY FINDINGS:

2117 total participants

540 Delta Region DAC Participants

DAC is defined as:
• Non-white or
• Household income is less than $60,000 or
• By zip code and household income is less than $75,000

DAC includes 166 Delta Region SDAC Participants

SDAC is defined as
• Household income is less than $45,000 or
• By zip code and household income is less than $60,000
Survey Results compared to 5-County Limited English Population

**Chinese Language**
311 Respondents (14.6%) for Chinese Translated Survey
Limited English Chinese speakers are 1.2% of 5 County region

**Spanish Language**
12 Respondents (.6%) for Spanish Survey
86 Latino/Hispanic Delta-Region DAC Respondents (16%)
Limited English Spanish speakers are 7.8% of 5 County Region
Have you ever participated before?

- **Delta DAC Respondents (375 of 540)**
  - Yes (145) 39%
  - No (230) 61%

- **Delta SDAC Respondents (105 of 166)**
  - Yes (36) 34%
  - No (69) 66%

- **All Respondents (919 of 2117)**
  - Yes (362) 39%
  - No (557) 61%
What’s most important to you?

Comparing Priorities Between Delta Region DAC, the Portion Categorized as Delta Region SDAC, and All Survey Participants

Rankings are weighted by multiplying a priorities average rank by the number of times it was chosen.
What do you like best about the Delta region?

Top 5 Priorities are the same for DAC, SDAC, and All Respondents

SDAC and DAC differ with All Respondents on...
1. Diverse cultures
2. Welcoming community
3. Local jobs
4. Access to affordable quality housing
What, if any concerns do you currently have about living or working in the Delta?

Top concerns are drinking water quality, levee maintenance and flooding, and quality of the natural environment.

"Protecting the Natural Environment of the Delta. It's healthiness affects the entire region."
Do you spend much time visiting the Delta waterways and natural areas?

**Delta DAC Respondents (368 of 540)**
- Yes, at least once per month (259) 70%
- Now and then (91) 25%
- No (18) 5%

**Delta SDAC Respondents (100 of 166)**
- Yes, at least once per month (63) 63%
- Now and then (30) 30%
- No (7) 7%

**Do you spend much time visiting the Delta waterways and natural areas?**

Comparison by Ethnicity for Delta DAC Respondents (368 of 540)
- African-American/Black: Yes, at least once per month 53%, Now and then 47%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: Yes, at least once per month 54%, Now and then 40%
- Latino/Hispanic: Yes, at least once per month 55%, Now and then 34%
- Mixed Heritage: Yes, at least once per month 88%, Now and then 11%
- Native American: Yes, at least once per month 92%, Now and then 8%
- Other: Yes, at least once per month 88%, Now and then 12%
- White: Yes, at least once per month 77%, Now and then 17%
- No: Yes, at least once per month 5%

**Do you spend much time visiting the Delta waterways and natural areas?**

All Respondents (917 of 2117)
- Yes, at least once per month (595) 65%
- Now and then (265) 29%
- No (57) 6%
What activities do you do most frequently in the Delta?

Hiking, walking and running was most frequently selected for outdoor recreation for DAC and SDAC.

All Respondents selected water activities most frequently.
All Special Places by Map Marker

Outdoor Activities: 28%
Fishing Spots: 18%, Historic & Cultural Sites: 17%
Gathering Places: 15%
Businesses & Services: 12%, and Other Special Places: 11%
Highlights from “Special Places” Mapping

“Restaurants and marinas provide an experience to people locally and visitors to show the value and impact of this beautiful resource... They are important to the environment, preservation, recreation and economy in the Delta. restaurants to visit via boat or road”

Living on the Delta is about Life on the Water

The most frequently selected outdoor activity were water activities

90% eat fish 4 or more times per week (of those who responded)

Combined marinas and restaurants are popular

96% Delta DAC IDed Historic & Cultural sites need improvement

“Locke is an amazing historic town not like any other in the U.S. which was built by the Chinese for the Chinese.”

Locke was IDed in 41% of Historic/cultural sites

“Our family and many friends spend time fishing in the Delta. Especially in this COVID time, it's been a safe way to de-stress, connect with nature, and (when fish bite) provide some protein.”

“It [Locke] is built on reclaimed swamp land like the other towns in the Delta. The foundations are not good...the town will probably crumble if construction happens.”
Do you work in the Delta?

All Delta DAC Respondents (397)

- Yes: 166 (42%)
- No: 198 (50%)

Only Delta SDAC Respondents (113)

- Yes: 54 (48%)
- No: 47 (41%)

If you work or are seeking work, what type of work do you typically do?

All Delta DAC Respondents Who Work or Are Seeking Work (188)

- Other (specify below)
- Education
- Farming, fishing or food...
- Engineering or technology
- Healthcare or social work
- Own a business (specify below)
- Government job
- Work in a restaurant or store
- Office worker
- Recreation or entertainment
- Construction
- Manufacturing or warehousing
- Not applicable
- Transit or waste management

Only Delta SDAC Respondents Who Work or Are Seeking Work (56)

- Other (specify below)
- Education
- Farming, fishing or food...
- Engineering or technology
- Healthcare or social work
- Own a business (specify...)
- Government job
- Work in a restaurant or store
- Office worker
- Recreation or entertainment
- Construction
- Manufacturing or...
- Transit or waste...
Are there services needed in your community?

- Social services are needed in the Delta (67% of Delta-region DAC responses). Top services identified include:
  - **Homeless services** (17%)
  - **Food banks/food security** (16%)
  - Other issues:
    - Affordable and quality housing
    - Children’s and teens programs
    - Health and medical services

No Services needed (19%)

“The city of Stockton’s homeless population has steadily grown in recent years. Many of the camps are located along waterways that feed the Delta including the Calaveras River and Mormon Slough. Limited opportunities for education, high poverty, chronic unemployment and soaring housing costs along with mental health and substance abuse issues all contribute to this growing challenge. Short term, a large construction project in the Delta might give some relief. It will not solve the problem.”
What is your current opinion about the Delta Conveyance Project proposal?

Participants expressed opposition to the “tunnel” throughout the survey. This contrasts with the strong response to this question of, “I don’t know enough to have a strong opinion at this time.”
What potential benefits of the proposal could you see for your community?

More than two thirds (71%) of Delta-region DAC respondents commented that there are no benefits that will come from the project.

Other responses included jobs & training (11%) and improving natural environment (9%) 

*Note – the DWR Community Benefits Program was not formulated at that time of the survey.*
Some Learnings

- Delta DAC participants have strong interests in the natural environment and preserving the Delta and its community, agriculture, and heritage. For many, their quality of life is interwoven with “life on the water.”

- Outdoor activities are important to Delta DAC participants, including hiking, walking and running and water activities.

- Services are needed, with a strong emphasis on homelessness.